

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 /079 W

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R 111326Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6619

INFO /CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET NATIONAL DAY TREATMENT OF PRC

REF: MOSCOW 16991 (1974)

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET COMMENTS ABOUT CHINA IN NATIONAL DAY SPEECHES SHOWED NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM THE STANDARD HARD LINE, BUT THE PRC GREETINGS (CARRIED IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA, APPARENTLY IN FULL) SEEMED RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING, IN CONTRAST WITH RECENT POLEMICS. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITBURO MEMBER, PEL'SHE, SPEAKING AT THE NOVEMBER 6 "CEREMONIAL MEETING" IN THE PALACE OF CONGRESSES, DENOUNCED "MAOIST" OPPOSITION TO DETENTE, PEKING'S "ANTI-SOVIETISM," AND ITS PURSUIT OF "GREAT POWER HEGEMONISM." PEL'SHE PAID PASSING HEED TO MOSCOW'S ALLEGED "UNCHANGING" WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS, BUT CONCLUDED THAT THE USSR WOULD

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DELIVER A "FIRM REBUFF" TO ANY "ENCROACHMENT" AGAINST ITS

OWN OR ITS FRIENDS INTERESTS. (COMMENT. PRC AMBASSADOR LIN HSIN-CHUAN WALKED OUT AT THIS POINT, AS HE DID LAST YEAR WHEN GROMYKO MADE SIMILAR REMARKS. GROMYKO, HOWEVER, MADE MORE OF MOSCOW'S ALLEGED WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE BY MAKING IT THE LAST POINT. END COMMENT.)

3. AT THE NOVEMBER 7 PARADE IN RED SQUARE, DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO SAID THAT PEKING'S "PROVOCATIVE POLICY" AND ITS EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE DETENTE COMPLICATED THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THIS COMMENT CAME AT THE END OF HIS RUNDOWN OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND BEFORE HIS AFFIRMATION OF SOVIET CONSTANCY IN ASSURING THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF PEOPLES AND OF THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY MIGHT. (COMMENT: AMBASSADOR LIU ALSO WALKED OUT OF THE REVIEWING STAND AT THIS POINT. GRECHKO DID NOT MENTION CHINA EXPLICITLY LAST YEAR AND LIU DID NOT WALK OUT. END COMMENT.)

4. THE CHINESE THEMSELVES PROVIDED A MINOR COUNTERPOINT TO THIS CONSISTENT HARD LINE IN THEIR GREETINGS WHICH WERE APPARENTLY REPLAYED IN FULL IN PRAVDA (NOV. 9) AND IZVESTIYA (NOV. 10). IN PRAVDA, THE MESSAGE WAS POINTED BETWEEN THOSE FROM THE RULING PARTIES (POLAND) AND THOSE FROM THE NON-RULING PARTIES (FRANCE). IN IZVESTIYA IT WAS PRINTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT-LEVEL MESSAGE FROM YUGOSLOVIA AND THE PARTY-GOVERNMENT GREETINGS FROM THE PRG/SVN. AS IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE MESSAGE WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FROM THE PRC NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS AND THE STATE COUNCIL, WITHOUT NAMES. IT CONVEYED "WARM CONGRATULATIONS" FROM THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE (I.E., NOT TO THE LEADERS OR THE GOVERNMENT). IT REITERATED IN STATE-MENT

THE "DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT INHIBIT THE NORMALIZATION OF STATE RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. TURNING THEN TO THE BORDER PROBLEMS, THE MESSAGE SAYS THAT THEY SHOULD BE SETTLED "STRICTLY IN TERMS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" WITH "PRACTICAL STEPS" THROUGH "EQUAL TALKS," IN ORDER THAT RELATIONS CAN BECOME "FRIENDLY AND GOOD-NEIGHBORLY." THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MESSAGE CONCLUDES THAT THE PRC GOVERNMENT WILL PURSUE THIS COURSE, WHICH IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PEOPLES.

7. COMMENT. THE MESSAGE IS NOTABLE MAINLY BECAUSE THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY REPLAYED IT IN FULL. THE REFERENCE TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE BORDER ISSUE SHOULD BE SETTLED IS MUCH SHORTER THAN LAST YEAR'S, WHICH LISTED IN SOME DETAIL PEKING'S VERSION OF THE REASONS FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS. THAT PORTION OF

LAST YEAR'S MESSAGE WAS NOT REPLAYED IN THE SOVIET PRESS.
HOWEVER, WE ARE HESITANT TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE
RELATIVELY WARM TONE OF THESE PRC GREETINGS IN VIEW OF THE
HIGH LEVEL OF POLEMICS WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED RECENT
COMMENTARY ON BOTH SIDES, AND IN VIEW OF THE APPARENTLY
UNWARRANTED SPECULATION WHICH SPRANG UP OVER THE PREVIOUS
TWO YEARS' GREETINGS. PERHAPS THE ANNIVERSARIES HAVE BECOME
THE ANNUAL OCCASIONS FOR EACH SIDE TO PUT FORTH A PUBLIC
SMILE -- THEREBY IMPLICITLY BLAMING THE OTHER FOR THE LACK
OF PROGRESS.
MATLOCK

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